



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



4 February 2016

Media Statement from Bishop Vincent Long ofm conv, Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Refugees

“The Australian Government’s response to people seeking asylum should focus on respecting their human dignity.”

“I urge the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Minister for Immigration Peter Dutton to act with compassion and mercy towards these families and allow them to remain in Australia.”

“The Catholic Church is prepared to provide community support for the families if allowed to stay.”

“I urge the Australian Government to ensure that no one is returned to where they may face persecution or violence. In particular where children face living in an unsafe environment.”

“The Catholic Church opposes mandatory detention and offshore detention because these policy responses do not respect the dignity of people seeking our help.

“Governments have a responsibility to manage migration flows, but the Australian Government’s current approach is harsh and should change.”

Bishop Vincent Long is the Australian Catholic Bishops spokesman on refugees and a former refugee himself.

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